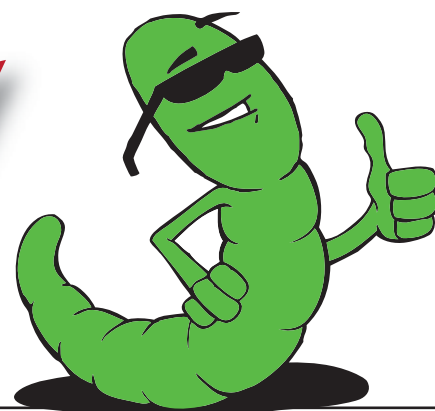


indykids!



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A FREE PAPER FOR FREE KIDS

ISSUE #18 • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

A New President Takes Office

Arne Duncan



Cabinet position: Secretary of Education

Responsibilities: Heads the Department of Education and makes decisions about the direction of national education policy

Qualifications: Seven years as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Chicago Public Schools, one of the country's largest public school districts with more than 400,000 students

What to expect: More funding for and reform of the No Child Left Behind Act, which allows districts to shut down schools that don't perform well on standardized tests

Tom Daschle



Cabinet position: Secretary of Health and Human Services

Responsibilities: Heads the Department of Health and Human Services; advises the president on public health issues

Qualifications: Former senator; worked as an adviser to lobbyists (people paid to push for laws that are good for special interests) on behalf of a law firm representing several large health-care related companies

What to expect: Wants to set up a new Federal Health Board to regulate which treatments are the most cost-effective; supports creating a public plan for people with no health insurance

Robert Gates



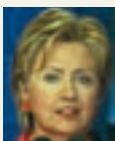
Cabinet position: Secretary of Defense

Responsibilities: Heads the Department of Defense; advises the president on waging war and the use of military forces

Qualifications: Appointed to the same job by President Bush in 2006; oversaw expanded troop levels

What to expect: Has called for \$69.7 billion to fight the war in Iraq through next year, and for 20,000 more troops in Afghanistan

Hillary Clinton



Cabinet position: Secretary of State

Responsibilities: Serves as the president's chief adviser on foreign affairs; heads the State Department, which manages all the embassies overseas; negotiates with foreign countries

Qualifications: Former first lady during the Clinton administration; two terms as a U.S. senator

What to expect: Initially supported the decision to go to war in Iraq, favored using military threats as a means of diplomacy, received large donations from weapons manufacturers

When President Barack Obama was sworn in on January 20, he brought with him a team of top advisers and members of his cabinet to help him as he tries to fulfill his promise of bringing change to the country. The United States cabinet currently has 15 positions. They are officers nominated by the president and confirmed by the United States Senate. Here's a look at four of the cabinet members joining Obama in Washington, D.C.



OBAMA PHOTO: SEIU

What Would You Do as President? *IndyKids* asked sixth-grade students at PS 126 in New York City's Chinatown to tell us what they would do if elected president.

If I was elected President my first act would be to reform the Education system

-Lucero

I would make health care free. So no one would have to struggle to pay health insurance.

-Alec

I will help stop global warming and make every one go green and make cars go on some thing eals but not gas

-Danielle



Meet... Camille from the Navajo Nation

Name: Camille Tso

Age: 13

Hometown: Black Mesa, Arizona, Navajo Reservation. She now lives in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Languages spoken: Navajo (called "Diné" by the people who speak it) and English

School: Camille is homeschooled part-time and goes to middle school in Flagstaff.

Family: Camille's mom and dad go to school and she has a little sister, Bahozhoni, who is two years old.

Favorite pastimes: Reading, sleeping and eating. Camille is also a film-maker. (See article on page 7)

Favorite food: Grandma's fried chicken with mutton (sheep) and mashed potatoes

Places she most wants to visit: New York, England and India



The Navajo Nation at a Glance

Population: 180,462

Capital: Window Rock, Arizona

Location: The Navajo Nation covers parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. It is the largest reservation in the United States.

Languages: Navajo, English

President: Joe Shirley, Jr.

Poverty: 43%

Learn a little Diné!

Hello: Ya'a'te'eh

Sheep: Dibé

Homemade bread: Báá

Thank You: Ahéhe

Okay, see you again: Hoganié
[there is no word for "goodbye," only "see you again"]

CHILD PROFILE COMPILED BY LIZA MINNO BLOOM

1,300,000

That's how many Palestinians live in Gaza, an area that is only 360 square kilometers in size.

nation&world

Palestinians in Gaza Killed Under Israeli Bombs

By AMANDA VENDER

On December 27, Israeli warplanes started bombing the Palestinian territory of Gaza as people were returning from work and school. A week later, on January 3, Israel launched a ground invasion.

According to *The Guardian*, as of January 14 more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed, including 315 children. On the Israeli side, 13 people have been killed.

"The home [I am staying in] has been severely damaged," said Natalie Abu Eid, an observer from Lebanon with the International Solidarity Movement. "All the glass of the house shattered. One little boy in our house fainted. An eight-year-old little boy was trembling on the ground for an hour. In front of our house we found the bodies of two little girls under a car, completely burnt. They were coming home from school."

Israeli officials say that Israel is bombing Gaza in response to rocket attacks from Gaza landing in Israeli territory. Since 2005, these attacks by Palestinians have

killed ten Israelis, according to a *Wall Street Journal* editorial.

For 18 months, Israel has enforced a blockade on Gaza and restricted the flow of medicine, food, fuel and electricity to people living in the area.

Protests were held around the world calling for an end to Israeli attacks. The United Nations Security Council urged an end to the violence and called for Israel to open border crossings to Gaza for aid supplies. The United Nations calls the situation in Gaza a humanitarian crisis, noting that there is no electricity or water for Gaza residents. However, U.S. officials have supported Israel's actions.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, "When Israel is attacked, the United States must continue to stand strongly with its friend and democratic ally."



AMIR FARSHAD EBRAHIMI

A Palestinian mother, with her two surviving children, attends the funeral of her five daughters, who were killed by an Israeli missile strike.

GLOSSARY

Israel: A country in the Middle East founded in 1948 as a Jewish homeland. The U.S. gives Israel more economic and military aid than any country in the world. In 2008, it gave Israel \$2.38 billion in military aid.

Palestinians: People from the area that now includes Israel and the Palestinian territories. When Israel was formed, about 750,000 Palestinians were forced to leave the area, and millions of people, along with their descendants, now live in refugee camps.

Gaza: Part of the Palestinian territory. It is one of the poorest and most densely populated areas in the world.

Expressions of Solidarity with Gaza Residents

The day after Israel launched its attack on Gaza, people around the world took to the streets in protest, and protests have continued since.

In New York City, over 3,000 people gathered at Rockefeller Center on December 28. The majority were Palestinians or Palestinian-Americans.

Hundreds of children came with their families, and teenagers came with classmates or youth groups. Four seven-year-old Pal-

estinian girls held a large Palestinian flag, chanting "Free Palestine!"

Many at the demonstration had friends or family members wounded or killed in the attacks.

"It's not justice. They don't have food or shelter. Whenever we donate they don't pass it on. There's no food or medicine or water, and they won't let them pass," said Huda Shalabi, 11, of Paterson, NJ, referring to the Israeli blockade on basic goods entering Gaza.



NEW YORK INDYMEDIA

Thousands of people around the world have demonstrated against Israel's attacks on Gaza. Above, a kid in New York City expresses solidarity with Palestinians on January 3.

indykids!

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SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Children's PressLine: www.cplmedia.org
Common Language Project: www.commonlanguageproject.net
New York Collective of Radical Educators: www.nycore.org
New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org
Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net
Teaching for Change: www.teachingforchange.org

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact **IndyKids!** Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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Blue Star: \$50

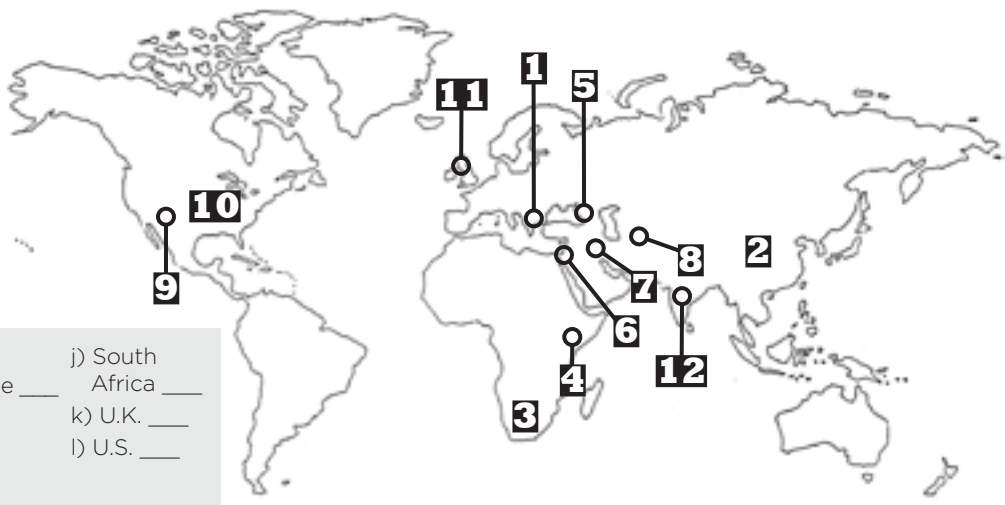
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Where in the World?

All the countries listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers at bottom of this page.

- a) Afghanistan ___ f) Iraq ___ j) South Africa ___
- b) China ___ g) Israel/Palestine ___ k) U.K. ___
- c) Georgia ___ h) Kenya ___ l) U.S. ___
- d) Greece ___ i) The Navajo Nation ___
- e) India ___



Bush Dodges Flying Shoes of Protest in Iraq

By JUDI CHENG

While former President George Bush was speaking at a news conference in Baghdad, Iraq, on December 14, an Iraqi journalist, Muntazar al-Zaidi, threw his shoes at Bush. “This is a farewell kiss, you dog!” he shouted. “This is from the widows, orphans and those who were killed in Iraq.” Bush ducked and was not hit by the shoes.

In the Arab world, throwing a shoe at someone is a grave insult. The foot is considered impure, and shoes are thought to be dirty. Muslims customarily take off their shoes before entering a mosque to pray.

Al-Zaidi has since become famous and admired throughout the Arab world for his action.

The *Times Online* reported that al-Zaidi’s brother, Maithm al-Zaidi, said, “Whenever I travel on public transport I am hugged and kissed by strangers because I look like my brother.”

The day after Muntazar al-Zaidi’s arrest, thousands protested to demand his release. Another of his brothers, Uday al-Zaidi, said that Muntazar al-Zaidi had been tortured while held in detention. He described his brother as having a missing tooth and cigarette burns on his face. Al-Zaidi is still being held in jail and faces a penalty of up to 15 years in prison for assaulting a head of state visiting Iraq.

Reporters Without Borders and the International Federation of Journalists called for Muntazar



Iraqi journalist Muntazar al-Zaidi threw his shoes at President Bush in outrage over the U.S. occupation.

al-Zaidi’s release. “This journalist was expressing his own deeply felt views and we cannot condone [approve of] his actions,” said Aidan White, General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists. “But after years of intimidation, mistreatment and unsolved killings at the hands of US soldiers, it is no surprise that there is anger and resentment among journalists.”

Student Pretends to Buy Wilderness to Save It

By ERIN THOMPSON

To disrupt an auction (a public sale to the person who offers the most money) of public wilderness to the oil and gas industry, a college student and environmental activist purchased 22,000 acres of public wilderness, with \$1.8 million he didn’t have.



Student Tim DeChristopher pretended to buy land near Arches National Park in Utah in order to protect it from drilling for oil and gas.

On December 19, University of Utah student Tim DeChristopher pretended to be a buyer at an auction of 149,000 acres of public lands located in southern Utah. The land was being auctioned off to members of the oil and gas industry so that they could drill and take these resources from the land. Environmentalists protested the auction, saying drilling would destroy ecologically sensitive areas in Utah.

Instead of standing outside, protesting the auction, DeChristopher decided to take a different action. He walked inside the auction and pretended he was a buyer.

“When faced with the opportunity to seriously disrupt the auction of some of our most beautiful lands in Utah to oil and gas developers, I could not ethically turn my back on

that opportunity,” wrote DeChristopher in a public statement released online. “By making bids for land that was supposed to be protected for the interests of all Americans, I tried to resist the Bush administration’s attempt to defraud the American people.”

DeChristopher successfully bought ten parcels of land — and drove up the price for the rest of the land for sale. Because DeChristopher didn’t have enough money to pay for the land, he was arrested for fraud.

To help DeChristopher avoid fraud charges, environmental activists have raised enough money to cover the down payment for the land. Now activists are waiting for the Obama administration to decide what will happen to the rest of the land.

newsbriefs

WORLD
Cuba Celebrates



The January 26, 1959, issue of *Time* Magazine marks the 50th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. On January 1, 1959, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other Cuban revolutionaries overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. They kicked out foreign companies that were taking advantage of the Cuban people and established healthcare and education for all Cubans.

Greeks Denounce Police Brutality

Demonstrators in Greece protested against police brutality after a 15-year-old boy, Alexandros Grigoropoulos, was shot and killed by police on December 6 in Athens. The protesters took over schools and government buildings, demanding justice and an end to police aggression. Other protests in solidarity spread worldwide.

NATIONAL
Wal-Mart Guard Trampled by Shoppers



Jdimytai Damour, a Wal-Mart seasonal worker, was trampled to death on the morning of November 28 when shoppers broke through the doors at a Long Island, New York, store. In the midst of widespread criticism of its worker policies, Wal-Mart now faces a court case filed by the family of Damour. The family’s complaint claims that Wal-Mart “engaged in specific marketing and advertising techniques to specifically attract a large crowd and create an environment of frenzy and mayhem and was otherwise careless, reckless and negligent.”



CHICAGO INDYMEDIA

Workers Take Over Factory

A group of 250 laid-off workers occupied the Republic Windows & Doors factory in Chicago in early December to protest a decision to shut down the factory without adequate warning. The workers were given three days’ notice, not the 60 days required by law. Workers also demanded that they receive pay for vacation and severance (pay given to workers when they are laid off). After a six-day occupation, the workers won and were given two months pay, healthcare benefits and vacation pay.



Oil Company Profits

The ExxonMobil oil company announced a \$40.6 billion profit for 2007, the largest profit for a corporation in history.



INDYMEDIA

Iraq War Anniversary

March 19 was the five-year anniversary of the war in Iraq. On March 23, four U.S. soldiers were killed in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq. These four deaths brought the total number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq to more than 4,000. The number of Iraqis who have died because of the war is estimated to be as high as one million.

Food Crisis

The rising cost of food threatened much of the world's people with hunger and led to food riots across the globe. Some causes of the food crisis included rising oil prices affecting the cost of growing and transporting food, harvest failures, drought, conflict and a global economic recession. More than 969 million people in the world live on less than \$1 a day, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), making it difficult for people to buy food.



COLOR KEY

- Economy
- Elections
- Oil Prices
- Scandals
- War
- Other

january february march april may june

Economic Crisis

Economic indicators around the world showed a worsening economy. The United States entered a recession (a long period of slow economic activity). Millions of people have lost their job or home during the current recession. President Bush pushed through a \$150 billion plan to give \$600 back to each U.S. taxpayer in an effort to boost the economy.



Olympics in China

China hosted the Summer Games for the first time in the nation's history. More than 10,000 athletes competed in 28 different sports. U.S.-born Michael Phelps made Olympics history by winning eight gold medals in swimming. The games took place amid several controversies, including charges that the Chinese government refused to allow Tibetans to work in Beijing during the games.



AZIPAYBARAH/FLICKR.COM

New York Governor Scandal

Governor Eliot Spitzer resigned after *The New York Times* reported that he was a client of an expensive prostitute (a person who engages in sex for money). As a result, Lieutenant Governor David Paterson became the new governor. He is New York's first African-American governor and first blind chief executive in the country.



Economic Crisis

Several major banks nearly closed down. The U.S. government stepped in and approved giving \$700 billion to the banks to keep them from closing. Thousands of people protested on Wall Street and around the country to oppose the bailout.



JACK THIELEPAPE

Obama Elected President

Barack Obama was elected the United States' first African-American president. Across the country, the Democratic Party's candidates won seats in both the Senate and House of Representatives, giving the Democrats a strong advantage over the Republicans.

Global Warming

Climate scientists reported that 2008 was the coldest year in the past decade. Ice storms in the Northeast in mid-December devastated communities by causing power outages and damaging homes. But even this chilly weather does not contradict long-term global warming trends. According to the UK-based Climate Research Unit of the University of East Anglia, global temperatures have increased by almost a full degree Celsius since 1908, making 2008 one of the hottest years on record.



july august september october november december

Oil Prices

Oil prices reached a new record of \$147 a barrel, and prices for drivers filling up their cars' gas tanks reached above \$4 a gallon.



SIMPLERICH/FLICKR.COM

Fighting in Georgia, Eastern Europe

After years of political tension, a war broke out between the oil-rich country of Georgia and its breakaway provinces known as South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The war lasted for about one week. Throughout the war, the South Ossetian and Abkhazian forces were largely supported by the Russian military. Georgia's military is backed by the U.S. government.



ONNIK KRIKORIAN

Politicians' Party

The Democratic and Republican parties each held a national convention to nominate their candidate for president. The Democrats nominated Barack Obama, and the Republicans nominated John McCain. While party members made speeches and celebrated, thousands of people gathered outside to protest what they saw as a broken political system.



Alaska Senator Scandal

Senator Ted Stevens was found guilty of violating ethics laws for not reporting thousands of dollars in gifts he received from an oil company businessman. Stevens ran for re-election in November but lost.

War in Afghanistan

October 7 marked the seven-year anniversary of the U.S. war in Afghanistan. Some military analysts claimed that it could be at least another four years before the war is over, and President Obama has pledged to put many more U.S. troops there.

Attacks in India

A series of attacks killed at least 173 people in Mumbai, the largest city in India. It is widely believed that the attackers were members of a militant organization based in Pakistan.



ADITYA BHARADWAJ

Illinois Governor Scandal

Governor Rod Blagojevich was arrested and charged with corruption, including trying to sell outgoing Senator Obama's seat. Blagojevich said he is innocent and has refused to resign.



Gone, But Not Forgotten

Here are some important people who died in 2008.



George Carlin

Comedian, actor. His radical routines caused much controversy, including his famous monologue "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television" for which he was arrested.



Utah Phillips

Folksinger, political activist. A lifelong anarchist (a person who believes there should be no government) and a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (an international union of workers), he composed songs about railway workers, miners and the trade union movement.



Paul Newman

Actor, philanthropist. An award-winning actor and U.S. screen icon who starred in films such as *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, Newman dedicated much of his later life to doing good work, including donating proceeds from his line of Newman's Own products to charities.



Studs Terkel

Radio host, author. A Pulitzer Prize-winning author of books about the working class, he is best known for his oral histories, including interviews with workers struggling during the Great Depression in the 1930s.



Miriam Makeba

South African civil rights leader, folk singer. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, she used her singing to raise awareness about apartheid (a system that separates people by race) in South Africa and to support causes for social justice. She was a Grammy Award-winning artist also known as Mama Afrika.



Odetta

U.S. civil rights activist, folk singer. Known as the voice of the civil rights movement (a movement from the 1950s to 1970s to end racial discrimination), Odetta sang "O Freedom" at the 1963 March on Washington. Her music influenced artists such as Joan Baez, Janis Joplin and Bob Dylan.

Book Review: 'A Young People's History of the United States'

By SARA SANCLEMENTE

To truly understand what the United States is about you need to look at the perspectives of everyone involved. The two-volume collection *A Young People's History of the United States*, adapted by Rebecca Steffoff from the classic radical history book by Howard Zinn, provides students with a critical view of U.S. history in an easy-to-understand format. The book presents pictures, primary sources and a glossary to help paint a vivid picture of often ignored events.

Volume One begins by looking at the arrival of Christopher Columbus from the point of view of the Arawak Indians. It leads the reader through the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The book focuses on the many revolutions and wars that led to the independence of the United States. The book also summarizes the role of women and African Americans during this time period, as well as the relationships between the United States and other countries like Mexico.



Volume Two focuses mainly on the 20th century but also goes into the present-day war on terrorism. It starts by looking at labor and class struggles, while also looking at World War I and the Great Depression. In this volume, the reader is taken through some of the biggest social upheavals in U.S. history, like the civil rights movement and the war in Vietnam.

Throughout this two-volume collection, readers are presented critical views of war, racism and economic injustices, and are asked to consider why these events happened the way they did and what could have been done differently. The book provides readers with new information and interesting accounts of rarely told events in U.S. history, and demonstrates the importance of considering others' perspectives.

4,000 lbs.

That's how much weight in tomatoes farmworkers in Florida have to pick each day to earn \$50.

culture&activism

How to Make History

An interview with Howard Zinn

A *People's History of the United States* was first published in 1980. The book was a radical retelling of U.S. history from the perspective of ordinary people. Almost thirty years later, the history book has sold more than two million copies and is taught in classrooms across the country.

IndyKids interviewed author Howard Zinn about his work as a radical historian.

IndyKids: Why did you write *A People's History of the United States*?

Howard Zinn: I realized that orthodox history omitted the point of view of working people, black people, Native Americans, ordinary GIs (soldiers). Instead, the storybooks were full of what presidents did, what laws were passed by Congress, what military victories our nation won.

IK: What's the most important thing about U.S. history that you want kids to know?

HZ: I want young people to know that they do not need to be passive observers of history made by important people — that they can make history themselves, by becoming part of a social movement.

IK: What do you say to teachers and parents who don't feel students should know about ugly chapters of U.S. history?

HZ: Young people should know the truth, ugly as it may be. It is not unpatriotic to criticize our own country. Patriotism does not mean obedience to government. It means obedience to the principles that government is supposed to stand for, and when government violates those principles it is the right of people to protest; that is democracy.

IK: Do you have any advice for kids on how to take action to make the world a more just and peaceful place?



HZ: Don't think you must do heroic things. If you think that, you will not do anything. Great social movements start with lots of people doing small things. Join a group in your school or in your community that is working on some issue you think important. What you do may seem small, but when these small actions merge at certain points in history, progress is made.

One Tomato at a Time...

By ELISE BETTENDORF
and MILANA MEYTES

Forced to work in unsafe and unjust terms, immigrant farmworkers in Florida have fought back and are now persevering through corporate oppression. In December, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), which represents farmworkers who pick Florida's tomatoes and citrus fruits, won an agreement from fast-food giant Subway to pay a penny more per pound more for tomatoes.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers began in 1993, with just a few members who were told they had no right to organize and form a union.

In 1998, the workers participated in a month-long hunger strike, and organized numerous protests against the violence they were forced to endure. Because there are still no laws that recognize farmworkers' right to organize, they are forced to gather 150 buckets of tomatoes a day,

each weighing 32 pounds, only getting 50 cents per bucket. That means workers as young as 12 must pick two tons of tomatoes a day in order to make minimum wage!

In 2005, the workers' campaign won a major victory when Taco Bell agreed to the increase the price it pays for tomatoes by a penny per pound after workers held a boycott of the restaurant. McDonald's agreed to the workers' demands in 2007.

Although much has been accomplished since the organization started, there is still much to be done. The CIW is fighting for three demands, including one more penny per pound, a code of conduct and an open dialogue between the workers and the farm industry.

The extra penny per pound won by workers has yet to make it to the workers. CIW is now addressing this issue as well as looking to apply their demands to larger chains such as Wal-Mart and Safeway.

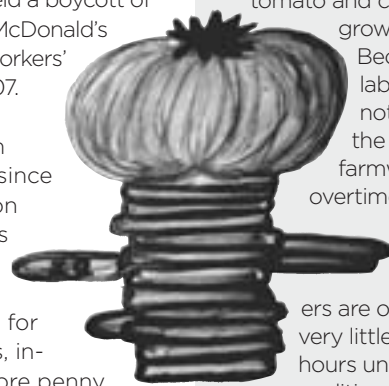


ILLUSTRATION BY
SARA FENNELL

A Day in the Life of a Florida Tomato Picker

Immokalee, Florida, is home to the state's largest community of farmworkers, who are mostly immigrants from Latin American countries. These farmworkers pick much of the tomato and citrus crops

grown in Florida. Because U.S. labor law does not recognize the right of farmworkers to overtime pay or the right to organize unions, these workers are often paid very little to work long hours under harsh conditions. Here's a look at a day in the life of an Immokalee farmworker.

4:30 AM: Wake up. Prepare lunch in your trailer.

5:00 AM: Walk to the pick-up site to begin looking for work.

6:30 AM: With luck, a contractor will choose you to work for him for the day. Take a bus to the fields 10 to 100 miles away.

7:30 AM: Arrive at fields; wait while the dew evaporates from the tomatoes. You are usually not paid for this time.

9:00 AM: Begin picking tomatoes. Fill buckets, hoist them on your shoulder, run them 100 feet or more to the truck and throw the bucket into the truck. You must pick two tons of tomatoes in order to earn \$50.

12:00 PM: Eat lunch as fast as you can, often with your hands soaked in pesticides.

5:00 PM (or later): Board bus to return to Immokalee.

Between 5:30 and 8:00 PM: Arrive in Immokalee and walk home.

For more information about the Coalition of Immokalee Farmworkers, visit www.ciw-online.org



ELISE BETTENDORF, 15, SARA FENNELL, 15, AND MILANA MEYTES, 16, ARE SOPHOMORES AT BEACON HIGH SCHOOL IN NEW YORK CITY.

COURTESY OF THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE FARMWORKERS

Letter from Kenya: A Picture of the Nairobi River

By JOEL NJUGUNA

The Nairobi River flows through the city of Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. The river is very polluted. It carries many things like garbage, waste from the slaughterhouse and industries, human feces and even unwanted aborted babies. Some people, especially street children, earn some money by collecting plastic and metal found floating in the river.

Most people take a bath in the river because the government doesn't provide running water for bathrooms. People get sick from waterborne diseases because the river is a dumping site.

Bridges were built so that people don't have to cross in the river and risk getting sick.

Most people in the area do not like the Nairobi River because it is so dirty. When it rains, the river picks up and carries away anything that is nearby.

Joel Njuguna, 14, is a member of Kenya Indymedia. He likes reading, traveling, soccer and swimming.

Street children in Kenya earn money by cleaning plastic bags from the river and selling them for recycling. Animals also look for food in the river. There is a Nairobi River Basin Program working to clean up the river.



Kids make documentaries, short films, music videos and public service announcements as part of an indigenous film collective in Arizona.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OUTTA YOUR BACKPACK

Kids Make Movies

Outta Your Backpack gives kids the tools to make their own films.

By LIZA MINNO BLOOM

In Flagstaff, Arizona, a collective called Outta Your Backpack (OYB) gives movie-making equipment to indigenous youth, and holds workshops teaching them how to film and edit their own movies.

"Native youth aren't represented in media, yet they're heavily influenced by it," said Rachel Tso, an adult mentor, "[OYB] is a form of media justice — kids can create their own stories and tell them."

Camille Tso, 13, is training to become OYB's youngest youth mentor. She will help teach kids how to film and edit, plan workshops and help the collective decide what to do with grant money.

Camille started working with OYB at nine years old, when she acted in her first film called *Inner Voices*, about clear-cutting and a person who could hear trees. By the time she was 11, she knew how to edit her own movies.

Camille's current project is a documentary about Black Mesa, Arizona (where Camille grew up) and the people who help the elders there herd their sheep, haul water, chop wood and prepare for the hard winters. The elders don't get much help — in fact they're being told they have to leave their home so that corporations can mine for coal.

Camille hopes her documentary will help families

get support in the future. She interviewed helpers about how they're going to take the knowledge from Black Mesa to other areas of their life.

"Not that many people know what's going on in Black Mesa," she said. "There are so many people all over the world who just think about taking, and they don't think about who they're taking from. For example, people don't know where their energy comes from and who's affected by it. The more we get the message out, the more aware people will be and the more they'll change."

Watch Outta Your Backpack films at:
www.indigenoussaction.org/backpack/

GLOSSARY

Collective: A group of people who make decisions about an organization together, by consensus.

Clear-cutting: A logging practice where most of the trees in a forest area are cut down, usually by large corporations.

Black Mesa: A very rural area on the Navajo Reservation that is sacred to the Navajo (Dineh) and Hopi people.

your views

Letters to the editor, from seventh graders at the Dolores Huertes Learning Academy in Oakland, California

I think it is a great idea that kids are fixing the damage that Hurricane Katrina did in 2005. It's a good thing that students from high school get involved.

Joe Patino

Something that I didn't like about the candidates Obama and McCain is that they do not approve of immigrants getting residence.

Jonathan Garcia

I think it should be against the law in any way to let 18 and younger kids work in factories or dangerous places. Well,



maybe a summer part-time job for a teenager might be a good idea... They should arrest and prosecute the company's owners.

David Tapia

I think that if only 25 percent of people liked Bush then why didn't they impeach him? He was doing a lot things wrong and a lot of people saw that, but they didn't do anything.

Mayra Centeno

I think the government should do something about the situation of the disappearing bees. The situation of the disappearing bees also affects humans. About one third of our food depends on bees pollinating plants. Not only that but bees actually help us keep our air less polluted. They also help so plants grow big and beautiful.

Esmerelda

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RECIPE

TOASTED PEANUT BUTTER
BANANA RAISIN SANDWICH

- A bagel (or substitute English muffin or toast)
- Peanut butter
- Banana
- Raisins

1. Toast the bagel.
2. Using a butter knife, spread peanut butter on the toast.
3. Lay slices of banana on the peanut butter.
4. Sprinkle some raisins on top.
5. Close the sandwich and cut in half.

-JUDI CHENG



PHOTO BY BOB SANDBERG

Who Am I?

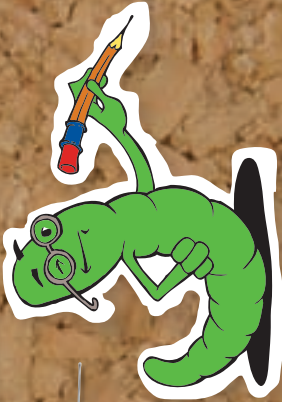
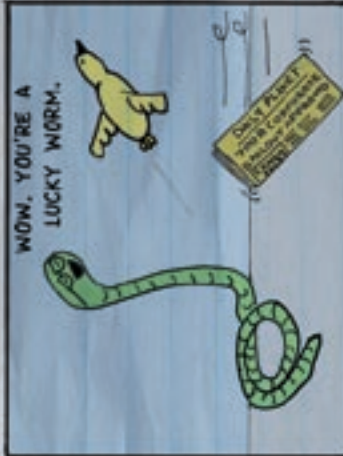
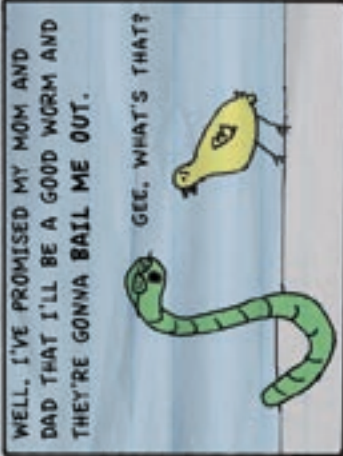
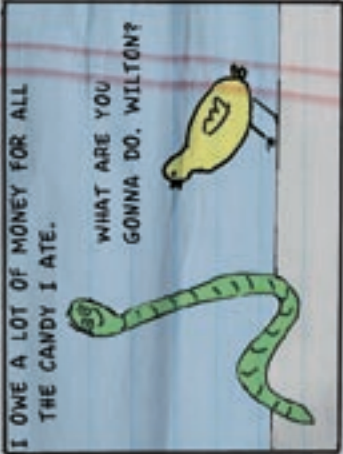
1. I was born in Cairo, Georgia, on January 31, 1919, into a family of sharecroppers (small farmers who give a share of crops to the landowner as rent).
2. In 1947, I became the first African American to play Major League Baseball since 1889 when baseball became segregated. I played for the Brooklyn Dodgers.
3. In my first season with the Dodgers, I was named National League Rookie of the Year and led the league in stolen bases. I led the Dodgers to six World Series and one World Series Championship.
4. I was a spokesperson and a director of the NAACP (The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) from 1957 to 1967.
5. I was inducted to baseball's Hall of Fame in 1962.

Answer: Jackie Robinson
-Gregory Ling, 13, is from West Windsor, NJ



WILTON THE WORM

by Xavier Tayo



WOW! Statistic

See if you can guess the following numbers. Answers are on the bottom of page 2.

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to approximately (A) people who participated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. One of the demands of the march was to increase the minimum wage from (B) to per hour. The federal minimum wage right now is (C) per hour.



-Maya Davis, 12, lives in Queens, NY

WORD SEARCH

Can you find the words listed below? All of these words are mentioned in this issue of IndyKids.

X B W D V F U H E J T I S
A N C O E P G C I Q K R M
U N I O N P E R I S H T M
S N I M R A W L A B O L G
G N I A G M R A C K O E S B
Y Z B R W O L Y M P I C S
F D W U E S K P N B M A Y
B R P R F E H A I J R N K
W A R M Q O V Z L S V D T
S W L S B A U T M E T A O
E O F G J F A C B O E L N
Z H A O B I L O C D F U E

WAR
IMMOKALEE
NAVAJO
HOWARD ZINN
GREECE
SHOE
UNION
OLYMPICS
GLOBAL WARMING
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